

BELGRADE TOWNSHIP
MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING

December 20, 2022

Nicollet County Human Services Building, North Mankato

Present: Supervisors: Sandy Howe, Gerri Krueger, Cheryl Michels, Mary Milbrath, and Craig Smith
Town Clerk: Joan Untiedt
Town Treas: Vacant
Employee: Harlan Olson
Residents: Twelve Residents

Meeting called to order by Chair Michels at 7:00 p.m. This meeting was delayed from December 13th due to inclement weather. Pledge of Allegiance recited by all in attendance. Reminder of town meeting etiquette was recited.

Additions to the agenda include adding snow pusher under equipment and wood/oil burning outdoors. Milbrath/Krueger move/second to approve the revised agenda, approved by all supervisors in attendance.

Michels/Howe move/second to approve the previous month's minutes after adding the comment the Freightliner replacement has moved up the list for production, approved by all supervisors in attendance.

Krueger/Milbrath move/second to approve the treasurer's report given by Untiedt, approved by all supervisors in attendance. Milbrath/Howe move/second to approve the claims as presented, approved by all supervisors in attendance. Howe/Milbrath move/second to approve payroll as presented, approved by all supervisors in attendance.

Old Business

1. Culverts & Ditches

- CenterPoint was called regarding markers, sandbags, and fencing left behind. The International had fencing wrapped around the axle while plowing snow because it was buried in the snow.
- Neubert culvert has no update.
- Timmerman culvert has no update.
- Nick Peters will fix the tile damage on his property on 478th St. in the spring.

2. Employees

- Michels/Howe move/second to appoint John Speckel as Treasurer, approved by all supervisors in attendance.

3. Equipment

- Backup signs for remaining equipment have not been received.
- Replacement for Freightliner has no further update.

4. Roads

- Installation of signs has no update since last meeting.
- MAT is setting up the tree cutting safety class for townships to attend.
- Two sheriff reports were shared from October 4th and November 9th regarding neighborhood issues on Timber Lane. One report stated, "he heard through another Township Board member that during the township meeting the comment was that they were going to 'stick it to them' by putting up the posts." No supervisor admitted to making this call.
- Right-of-way (ROW) markers were installed on Timber Lane on December 7th by Howe, Milbrath, Michels, Olson, and Wallace Michels. Nicollet County has suggested we mark all ROWs in the township. This discussion will be on the 2023 plan which also includes additional tree trimming.
- Howe and Michels talked to the two residents on 391 Lane regarding the lack of space for a turnaround for equipment. Residents are willing to discuss what can be done to create more room in the spring.
- Howe and Milbrath met with Sharon Ahl regarding placement of iron markers and lawn ornaments that could be hit during grading and plowing because they were in the right-of-way. She agreed something needed to be done.

5. Other

- Ordinance for setbacks was received by the town attorney. Copies will be provided to the board prior to the January meeting for review. Approval was made at a prior meeting to make the township setbacks the same as Nicollet County which is 50 feet. Discussion on a prior incident that required a variance request after the building was completed and not set back properly.
- Meeting with Greener World Solutions (Waseca) regarding the building roof repair. He submitted a quote of \$8,000 for the repairs needed. Discussion on the current state of the roof which has not had any work done since being built in 1994. Decision to be made at the next meeting or deferred to the residents at the annual meeting in March.
- Discussion with Morton Buildings regarding the rotting wooden posts in the shop building. They said the posts should not be replaced with wood nor would an addition to the current building be feasible. Working on options to present to residents at the annual meeting.
- Annexation and fire department agreements will be distributed for review at the next meeting. An agreement needs to be written with Oshawa Township for the shared road maintenance. The shared road with Nicollet Township was a handshake agreement. It was agreed to get the details and write up an agreement.
- Waiting for details on a petition for a special election for the Treasurer position from the town attorney.
- Michels has been on the board for the Nicollet County Township Association. Her term is expiring January 1, 2023. A new supervisor will need to be appointed to this board.
- Annual newsletter articles are due by mid-January.

New Business

1. Employees

- The annual employee reviews will take place after the regular board meeting during a closed session.
- Olson was approached by an individual who is willing to work part-time on the International when needed. Michels/Milbrath move/second to hire Bump Krueger at the hourly rate as previous part-time employees, approved by Milbrath, Howe, and Michels. Smith dissented and Krueger recused herself for conflict of interest.

2. Equipment

- Freightliner repairs since January 2019 have accumulated to \$76,699.11.
- Discussion on the plow for the new truck on order. Milbrath/Howe move/second to approve the change order to add a hydraulic tilt cylinder at the cost of \$2,729, approved by Howe, Krueger, Michels, and Milbrath. Smith dissented.
- Milbrath/Michels move/second to approve a 2023 contract with Crystal Valley for 5,000 gallons of diesel fuel, approved by all supervisors in attendance.
- Olson presented a proposal to add a snow pusher on the backhoe bucket at an estimated \$3,000 cost. Discussion on the benefits of the blade and savings on labor costs. Frank Little suggested a ditch cleaning bucket would be more useful. Olson will check on this option and its cost.

3. Fire Report

- Statistics from the November meeting:
 - Fire chief is retiring
 - 160 calls to date in 2022
 - County purchased new radios for the department
 - Working on grant applications to assist with a pumper truck purchase
- Budget meeting scheduled for January 23, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.
- Annual meeting scheduled for February 27, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.

4. Roads

- Manure dump was found on November 11th starting on 411th to 486th. Looked like someone opened a gate to dump manure. Olson cut off as much as possible of the frozen manure from the road. Cannot identify who caused the issue, but it is a repeated incident.
- Resident on Timber Trail called to say how pleased they were with the road maintenance this year.
- List of resident complaints regarding plowing and sanding that were addressed, and other issues cited by supervisors and Olson:
 - Bill Mattes – concerns on ditch/culvert – will meet when snow is gone
 - Brian Loe – plow too late in plowing him on December 9th
 - Jeff Skagg – too much sand in Purrier Court

- Mike Marti – too much sand and it was dragged into his garage
- Neoma Peterson – not enough detail done in Purrier Court
- Charlie Smith – bumper ridge is gone and was used in his private driveway
- Sharon Ahl – snow deposit in wrong area – talked to her regarding private plowing
- Kevin Simmons – snowplow hit garbage cans – the cans were in the right-of-way
- Brenda Stenzel – sand on right-of-way, do not put on the cul-de-sac, roads should not be treated with sand, just the curves
- Bill Thiede – car is tracking sand into his garage – but complimented Olson on plowing
- Larry Achterhoff – pleased with plowing on Honeysuckle Lane
- Four residents on Honeysuckle Lane are pushing snow at the end of their driveway and into the right-of-way. Called Ryan Olson who admitted he had pushed the piles and would move them.
- Sarah Wersal – plowing was horrible and attempted to leave at 6:00 a.m. and got stuck in the curve of the road. Sent length email with complaints and asking for better service.
- Olson was contacted regarding every complaint/concern. He returned and plowed these areas.

Discussion points:

- When living in the country, need a contingency plan for storms.
- Olson to continue getting the township roads plowed as quickly and best as possible.
- Sanding is necessary for safety reasons.
- Snow fence installed in the Honeysuckle Lane in the past did not help. Snow builds up on the fence and then expected to blow over the top of the road to the other side. However, because there are trees on the other side, the snow swirls, and lands on the road.
- Order of how roads are plowed. Smith indicated other roads and subdivisions are done first before the hills. In previous years, the hills were done first. The township needs to do what is best for all residents, not just certain ones. Safety of all residents is a concern. A discussion on the order of plowing will continue with a plan at the next meeting.

5. Other

- MAT is offering a free subscription for webinars for one year. Starting in the second year, the cost of \$125 per township. Milbrath/Howe move/second to register for the subscription, approved by all supervisors in attendance.
- A location needs to be determined for the annual meeting in March. The current space cannot accommodate more than 30 people (including standing room) and the shop is difficult to hear in. Untiedt will check availability of the North Mankato Fire Hall community room for availability and cost.
- The 2023 reorganizational meeting will be held on January 10th following the regular monthly board meeting.
- Resident raised concerns of wood burning/oil burning outdoors near homes. They have a neighbor using outdoor burning to heat their home. The smoke is making it exceedingly difficult to breathe. They have requested the neighbor to stop burning citing a nuisance clause in their association covenant. After calling Nicollet County, they were told there is no ban on

issue, but no enforcement can be done. The township might not have the authority to make any resolution or ordinance that would ban this type of burning. Suggested contacting the neighbor again to resolve the issue.

- Krueger submitted her resignation from the Town Board effective immediately due to health reasons. Michels/Milbrath move/second to accept the resignation, approved by Howe, Michels, and Milbrath. Smith dissented.
- Untiedt suggested the board look at candidates who were unsuccessful in the November election to fill the vacant position. Christopher Frederick indicated he was interested in a board position and would consider the appointment. Howe/Milbrath move/second to appoint Frederick to take the vacant supervisor position, approved by Howe, Michels, Milbrath, and Untiedt. Smith dissented.

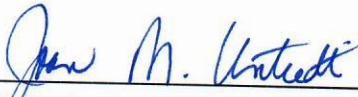
Milbrath/Michels move/second to adjourn the meeting at 9:05 p.m., approved by all supervisors in attendance.



~~Mary Milbrath, Vice-Chair~~
Bryan Bode

1-13-23

Date



Joan Untiedt, Town Clerk

1-10-23

Date